(ct) a polynucleotide containing the sequence which spans from the 441st to the 455th position of Sequence ID No. 1;

(dt) a polynucleotide containing the sequence which spans from the 449th to the 459th position of Sequence ID No. 1; and

(et) a complementary strand of the polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of (at), (bt), (ct) and (dt).

- 19. The polynucleotide of Claim 18, which comprises (at).
- 20. The polynucleotide of Claim 18, which comprises (bt).
- 21. The polynucleotide of Claim 18, which comprises (ct).
- 22. The polynucleotide of Claim 18, which comprises (dt).
- 23. The polynucleotide of Claim 18, which comprises (et).
- 24. The polynucleotide of Claim 18, further comprising at least one additional polynucleotide connected to said polynucleotide, the additional polynucleotide being selected from the group consisting of a promoter, an enhancer, an upstream activation sequence, a silencers, a upstream suppression sequence, an attenuator, a poly A tail, a nucleus transport signal, Kozak sequence, ISRE, a drug resistance factor, a gene of signal peptide, a gene of transmembrane domein, a gene of marker protein, a gene of interferon-responding protein, and a gene of interferon-non-responding protein.
- 25. A polynucleotide suitable for predicting the efficacy of interferon therapy using interferon-α and/or interferon-β for treating an individual who suffers from hepatitis C virus, comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
  - (ag) the polynucleotide of Sequence ID No. 2 in the sequence listing;
  - (bg) a modified polynucleotide derived from (ag) by inclusion of one or several

(cg) a polynucleotide containing the sequence which spans from the 441st to the 455th position of Sequence ID No. 2;

(dg) a polynucleotide containing the sequence which spans from the 449th to the 459th position of Sequence ID No. 2; and

(eg) a complementary strand of the poly nucleotide selected from the group consisting of (ag), (bg), (cg) and (dg).

- 26. The polynucleotide of Claim 25, which comprises (ag).
- 27. The polynucleotide of Claim 25, which comprises (bg).
- 28. The polynucleotide of Claim 25, which comprises (cg).
- 29. The polynucleotide of Claim 25, which comprises (dg).
- 30. The polynucleotide of Claim 25, which comprises (eg).
- 31. The polynucleotide of Claim 25, further comprising at least one additional polynucleotide connected to said polynucleotide, the additional polynucleotide being selected from the group consisting of a promoter, an enhancer, an upstream activation sequence, a silencers, a upstream suppression sequence, an attenuator, a poly A tail, a nucleus transport signal, Kozak sequence, ISRE, a drug resistance factor, a gene of signal peptide, a gene of transmembrane domein, a gene of marker protein, a gene of interferon-responding protein, and a gene of interferon-non-responding protein.
- 32. A polynucleotide suitable for predicting the efficacy of interferon therapy using interferon-α and/or interferon-β for treating an individual who suffers from hepatitis C virus, comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
  - (aa) the polynucleotide of Sequence ID No. 3 in the sequence listing;
  - (ba) a modified polynucleotide derived from (aa) by inclusion of one or several

(ca) a polynucleotide containing the sequence which spans from the 441st to the 455th position of Sequence ID No. 3;

(da) a polynucleotide containing the sequence which spans from the 449th to the 459th position of Sequence ID No. 3; and

(ea) a complementary strand of the polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of (aa), (ba), (ca) and (da).

- 33. The polynucleotide of Claim 32, which comprises (aa).
- 34. The polynucleotide of Claim 32, which comprises (ba).
- 35. The polynucleotide of Claim 32, which comprises (ca).
- 36. The polynucleotide of Claim 32, which comprises (da).
- 37. The polynucleotide of Claim 32, which comprises (ea).
- 38. The polynucleotide of Claim 32, further comprising at least one additional polynucleotide connected to said polynucleotide, the additional polynucleotide being selected from the group consisting of a promoter, an enhancer, an upstream activation sequence, a silencers, a upstream suppression sequence, an attenuator, a poly A tail, a nucleus transport signal, Kozak sequence, ISRE, a drug resistance factor, a gene of signal peptide, a gene of transmembrane domein, a gene of marker protein, a gene of interferon-responding protein, and a gene of interferon-non-responding protein.
- 39. A polynucleotide suitable for predicting the efficacy of interferon therapy using interferon- $\alpha$  and/or interferon- $\beta$  for treating an individual who suffers from hepatitis C virus, comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
  - (ac) the polynucleotide of Sequence ID No. 4 in the sequence listing;
  - (bc) a modified polynucleotide derived from (ac) by inclusion of one or several

(cc) a polynucleotide containing the sequence which spans from the 441st to the 455th position of Sequence ID No. 4;

(dc) a polynucleotide containing the sequence which spans from the 449th to the 459th position of Sequence ID No. 4; and

(ec) a complementary strand of the polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of (ac), (bc), (cc) and (dc) mentioned above.

- 40. The polynucleotide of Claim 39, which comprises (ac).
- 41. The polynucleotide of Claim 39, which comprises (bc).
- 42. The polynucleotide of Claim 39, which comprises (cc).
- 43. The polynucleotide of Claim 39, which comprises (dc).
- 44. The polynucleotide of Claim 39, which comprises (ec).
- 45. The polynucleotide of Claim 39, further comprising at least one additional polynucleotide connected to said polynucleotide, the additional polynucleotide being selected from the group consisting of a promoter, an enhancer, an upstream activation sequence, a silencers, a upstream suppression sequence, an attenuator, a poly A tail, a nucleus transport signal, Kozak sequence, ISRE, a drug resistance factor, a gene of signal peptide, a gene of transmembrane domein, a gene of marker protein, a gene of interferon-responding protein, and a gene of interferon-non-responding protein.
  - 46. A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 18.
  - 47. A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 25.
  - 48. A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 32.
  - 49. A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 39.
  - 50. A method for predicting the efficacy of interferon therapy using interferon- $\alpha$

and/or interferon-\beta for treating an individual who suffers from hepatitis C virus, comprising:

- 1) taking a sample containing a polynucleotide which includes at least one interferonstimulated response element from the individual; and
  - 2) determining whether the sample contains the polynucleotide of Claim 18, and
- 3a) predicting that the interferon therapy will be successful for said individual if the sample contains the polynucleotide of Claim 18 or
- 3b) predicting that the interferon therapy will not be successful for said individual if the sample does not contain the polynucleotide of Claim 18.
- 51. A method for predicting the efficacy of interferon therapy using interferon-α and/or interferon-β for treating an individual who suffers from hepatitis C virus, comprising:
- 1) taking a sample containing a polynucleotide which includes at least one interferonstimulated response element from the individual; and
  - 2) determining whether the sample contains the polynucleotide of Claim 25, and
- 3a) predicting that the interferon therapy will be successful for said individual if the sample contains the polynucleotide of Claim 25 or
- 3b) predicting that the interferon therapy will not be successful for said individual if the sample does not contain the polynucleotide of Claim 25.
- 52. A method for predicting the efficacy of interferon therapy using interferon-α and/or interferon-β for treating an individual who suffers from hepatitis C virus, comprising:
- 1) taking a sample containing a polynucleotide which includes at least one interferonstimulated response element from the individual; and
  - 2) determining whether the sample contains the polynucleotide of Claim 32, and
- 3a) predicting that the interferon therapy will be successful for said individual if the sample contains the polynucleotide of Claim 32 or

- 3b) predicting that the interferon therapy will not be successful for said individual if the sample does not contain the polynucleotide of Claim 32.
- 53. A method for predicting the efficacy of interferon therapy using interferon-α and/or interferon-β for treating an individual who suffers from hepatitis C virus, comprising:
- 1) taking a sample containing a polynucleotide which includes at least one interferonstimulated response element from the individual; and
  - 2) determining whether the sample contains the polynucleotide of Claim 39, and
- 3a) predicting that the interferon therapy will be successful for said individual if the sample contains the polynucleotide of Claim 39 or
- 3b) predicting that the interferon therapy will not be successful for said individual if the sample does not contain the polynucleotide of Claim 39.
- 54. A method for rendering an interferon-insensitive individual to be interferonsensitive, which comprises introducing the polynucleotide of Claim 18 into the interferoninsensitive individual.
- 55. A method for rendering an interferon-insensitive individual to be interferonsensitive, which comprises introducing the polynucleotide of Claim 25 into the interferoninsensitive individual.
- 56. A method for rendering an interferon-insensitive individual to be interferonsensitive, which comprises introducing the polynucleotide of Claim 32 into the interferoninsensitive individual.
- 57. A method for rendering an interferon-insensitive individual to be interferonsensitive, which comprises introducing the polynucleotide of Claim 39 into the interferoninsensitive individual.
  - 58. A non-human transgenic animal, into which has been introduced the